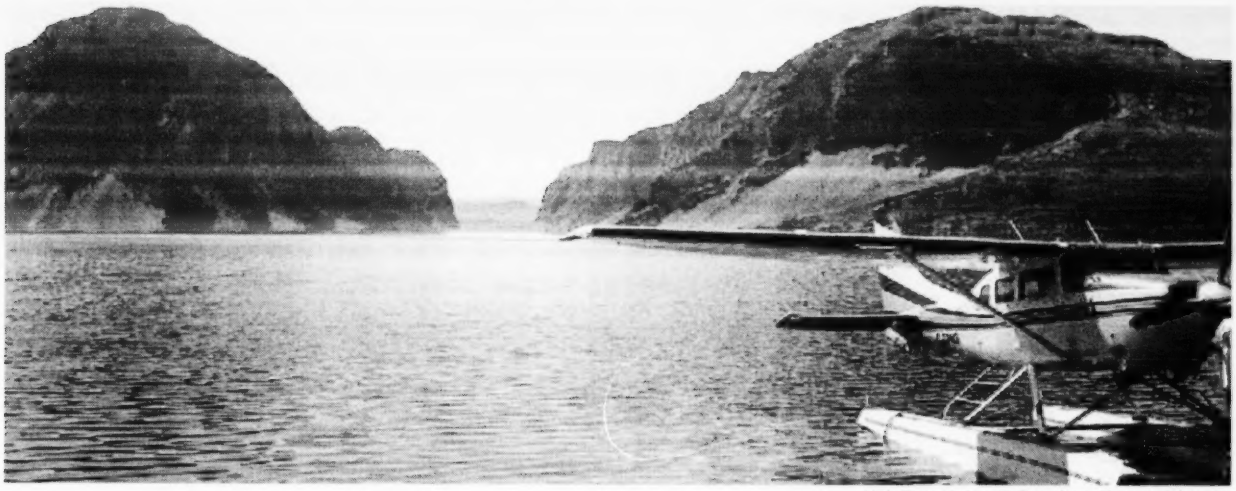
Northwest Territories Industry, tourism and investment

Seizing Opportunities:

2006 Securing Our Future

In the Dehcho Region



Little Doctor Lake with float plane. Photo: Judith Venaas

As part of our role within the Northwest Territories' (NWT) vibrant and wide-ranging economic environment – we are balancing our efforts to promote sustainable opportunities in the energy, mines and petroleum resources industries with the development of a diversified economy throughout the NWT.

We are sharpening our focus to improve overall effectiveness of our plans and services.

This booklet outlines how we plan to help build business in the Dehcho this year. Concentrating on small business, minerals, oil and gas development, tourism, forestry and the Traditional Economy, Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) staff will help your business reach measurable goals. Our staff and partners will provide support and assistance for the establishment, expansion and modernization of your business. Offering advice, and access to programs and resources, we will help you set and achieve your objectives as well as maximize the regional benefits from any new developments.

Part of this role includes developing communication networks between individuals, businesses, industry developers, communities, Aboriginal organizations and other government agencies. Call or visit our regional ITI office to see how we can help you grow.

Brendan Bell

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

To encourage economic development in the Dehcho Region, your regional development team will:

Promote and support a diversified economy that provides opportunities to residents.

Promote and support the development of business opportunities, including agriculture, traditional economy, tourism, investment, manufacturing, and secondary industries.

Promote the sustainable development of natural resources that respects the conservation and protection of the environment for our future generations.

Promote and support the efficient development, utilization and marketing of energy resources to achieve self-sufficiency, maximize economic opportunities, and realize affordable energy costs.

Secure economic and employment opportunities from responsible resource development for Northwest Territories residents.

Develop partnerships with individuals, businesses, communities, Aboriginal organizations and other governments to foster prosperity and community self-reliance.

NEB Hearings in Fort Simpson. Photo: ITI

Minerals, Oil and Gas

Through exploration, and development of identified resources, the mining and oil and gas industries offer potential for great benefits to residents and businesses in the Dehcho.

Mining

Mineral resources in the Dehcho Region include tungsten, zinc, silver, nickel, and precious and semi-precious stones.

The mining Industry in the Dehcho Region is currently limited to one operating mine in Tungsten. The Prairie Creek Mine (lead, zinc, silver) is awaiting licensing approvals.

Chevron K29 – Near Fort Liard. Photo: ITI

Oil and Gas

The majority of the oil and gas interests in the Dehcho Region lie in the Liard Valley and toward Trout Lake and south of the Mackenzie Highway. The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project is currently being assessed through the Joint Review Panel and National Energy Board processes.

We plan to encourage the Mining and Oil and Gas Sectors by:

1. Developing and distributing sector specific information to keep regional residents, businesses and communities informed.
2. Working with regional communities and Aboriginals organizations to keep them up-to-date on all aspects of sector developments.
3. Encouraging and assisting industry partners to work directly with local communities and businesses for the supply of goods and services and future employment.
4. Working with regional businesses to build capacity for supply and services to these industries.

Tourism

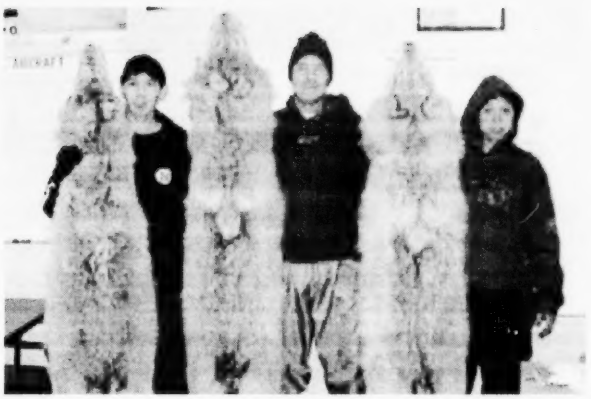
Tourism is a growing industry in the Dehcho Region. We want to attract more tourists, develop more events and attractions, and improve services to make visitors' stays more pleasant.

The Dehcho is unique in its diverse landscape and vast cultural history. It is ideal for numerous tourism opportunities. To develop the tourism industry we need to identify, encourage and support existing and potential operators and their employees. Human resources continues to be the heart of the tourism industry.

The ITI Staff in the Dehcho Region will:

1. Identify existing and potential operators in each community.
2. Assist potential operators to identify, analyze and source financing for tourism developments.
3. Provide tourism operators with opportunities for management business and staff development training.

Fall colours of the Fort Simpson Territorial Park. Photo: ITI



Students holding up the wolf pelts. Photo: ENR

4. Encourage higher service standards from businesses and other service providers, to ensure tourists' needs and expectations are met.
5. Encourage improvements in the quality of service of restaurants, accommodations facilities, fuel outlets, outfitting businesses, community attractions, Visitor Information Centres, Parks, and Interpretive Services.
6. Encourage improvements to signage, road conditions, highway pull-outs and access to scenic views and attractions.
7. Assist NWT Tourism in its marketing efforts of the Dehcho.
8. Improve community awareness of the tourism industry through annual tourism opportunity presentations and by providing tourism workshops and training in each community.
9. Encourage local organizations to develop tourism related events and attractions.
10. Help with Regional and Territorial tourism research.

Dehcho Territorial Parks provide breathtaking scenery and quality facilities and services. These facilities must continue to meet the expectations of RV and camping markets

We plan to:

1. Improve our communications systems to participate in a Territorial wide web- based park site reservation system.
2. Continue our efforts to improve our parks permitting system.
3. Improve Infrastructure by developing:
    - dumping stations at Sambaa Deh and Fort Simpson Territorial Parks;
    - family based recreation facilities in our Parks, including playgrounds and other recreational activities;
    - an improved Parks Office for the Fort Simpson Territorial Park; and,
    - more wooden tent pads in Sambaa Deh Territorial Park and Fort Simpson Territorial Park.
4. Improve park experience by developing:
    - interpretive and cultural programs;
    - more interpretive displays; and,
    - training programs for contractor staff.

Traditional Economy

The Traditional Economy is still an integral component of the regional economy, whether that be trapping, hunting, fishing or the harvesting of firewood. This industry supplements family incomes, provides the materials for a vibrant arts and crafts industry, and is part of the cultural fabric of our Region's Aboriginal peoples.

The staff of ITI in the Dehcho will continue to:

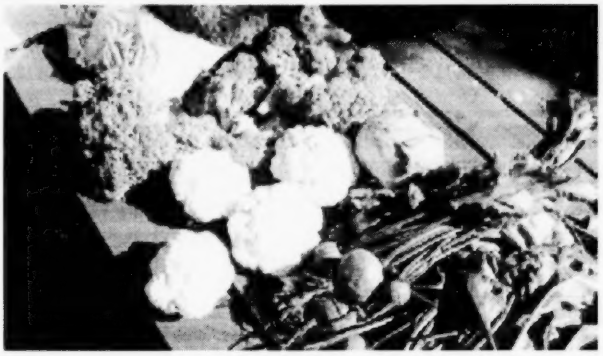
1. Deliver support programs such as the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, the Western Harvesters Assistance Program and the Fur Purchase Program to community harvesters in a timely and efficient manner.
2. Support local Wildlife Committees.
3. Encourage the secondary manufacturing of traditional products through our Arts and Crafts and Business Programs.
4. Support youth engaging in traditional activities such as on-the-land cultural camps and workshop training opportunities.
5. Distribute information on the fur industry including the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Pricing Program.

Forestry

The forestry industry holds considerable potential for development in our Region. Fort Liard and Jean Marie River are the communities with the most commercial forestry experience in the Region.

Staff of ITI in the Dehcho Region will:

1. Foster positive relationships between industry, small business and Aboriginal organizations.
2. Provide access for prospective business clients to expert advice from forestry industry specialists regarding harvesting, sawmilling, marketing or secondary manufacturing of forest products.
3. Encourage business to consider supplying forest products Regionally and Territory-wide.
4. Deliver forestry related workshops to interested communities.



Regional grown produce Photo: ITI - Heather Smith.

Agriculture

Staff of ITI will continue to encourage the provision of agricultural pilot and demonstration projects in the Dehcho Region.

Small Business

The small business sector is the most critical to the overall health of the economy of the Dehcho Region.

Regional staff will focus greater attention on improving client accessibility to our programs and services.

Our staff will:

1. Deliver a small business workshop in each community.
2. Promote entrepreneurship as a viable career option to youth.
3. Contact each business to discuss ideas and issues and how we may be able to assist.
4. Facilitate meetings between industry, small business and Aboriginal organizations.
5. Be an active participant in the Chamber of Commerce.
6. Encourage the development of a Regional Business Conferences/ Workshops.

Access to Capital

We will continue to assist individuals and businesses to identify project funding as well as other services.

This year we will:

1. Deliver presentations to each community on accessing the various ITI/Business Development and Investment Corporation programs, Dehcho Business Development Corporation programs, and Federal Programs.
2. Develop a quarterly newsletter for the regional business clients.
3. Mail program literature to all businesses and Aboriginal organizations in the Dehcho.
4. Deliver workshop on to "How to Access Capital".

REGIONAL CONTACTS

	REGIONAL OFFICE	New phone numbers effective Feb/2007
Main Departmental Switchboard Phone	(867) 695-7460	(867) 695-7500
Regional Superintendent	(867) 695-7461	(867) 695-7520
Manager – Parks and Tourism	(867) 695-7462	(867) 695-7515
Tourism Development Officer	(867) 695-7463	(867) 695-7516
Parks Officers	(867) 695-7464	(867) 695-7517
Regional Petroleum Advisor	(867) 695-7465	(867) 695-7508
Manager – Trade and Investment	(867) 695-7466	(867) 695-7510
Business Development Officer	(867) 695-7467	(867) 695-7511
Business Development Administrator	(867) 695-7468	(867) 695-7512
Shared Services Officer	(867) 695-7469	(867) 695-7506
Fax	(867) 695-2754	(867) 695-7501

OTHER OFFICES

Manager
Dehcho Business Development Centre
Fort Simpson

Phone	(867) 695-2441
Fax	(867) 695-2052

Economic Development Officer
(for Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River and Wrigley)
Dehcho Business Development Centre
Fort Simpson

Phone	(867) 695-2441
Fax	(867) 695-2052

Economic Development Officer
(for Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake)
Hamlet Office Building
Fort Liard

Phone	(867) 770-4104
Fax	(867) 770-4004

Visit our website at:
www.iti.gov.nt.ca/regions/dehcho.htm

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